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Origin

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ACTION: Amembassy KATMANDU 157
 " NEW DELHI 1540
 INFO: Amconsul HONG KONG 782
 Amembassy LONDON 4671
 " KARACHI (POUCH)
 CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA (POUCH)

JOINT STATE-DEFENSE

Text as released to press of Secretary McNamara's January 27 statement on 1965 defense budget to House Armed Services Committee erroneously indicated that Nepal was receiving military assistance, including arms and ammunition, from Communist China. Cause of mistake was inadvertent dropping of two lines from text when reproduced for release to press.

DOD released corrected text of part dealing with Nepal January 30.

Corrected text reads as follows with omitted lines underscored:

Quote The Chinese Communists also pose a grave threat to Nepal and could easily overrun that country with their forces now in Tibet. More probably, in our opinion, the Chinese Communists' aim is to infiltrate and subvert Nepal. They have provided the Nepalese both economic and military assistance, although the latter has been confined to a few radio sets and cloth for uniforms. The Nepalese have reportedly rejected other military assistance, including arms and ammunition. We recognize the desirability of Nepal having an internal security capability, which we estimate can be achieved with their existing army, provided it receives at least a small amount of external assistance. Unquote.

Drafted by:

NEA:SOA:DKu x:dlm 1/30/64

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

NEA - James P. Grant

Clearances:

DOD/ISA - Col. Miller

NEA/P - Mr. Billings

(substance) SOA - Mr. Cameron

(substance) FE - Mr. Dean

(substance)

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If press stories based on incorrect text appear, Embassy Delhi and
Katmandu should refer newsmen to corrected version. Embassies should also
inform GOI and GON.

END

RUSK

NOTE: Pouched by OCT

JAN 31 4 12 PM '64
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL